

27

DIRECTIONS
FOR
A DEVOUT and DECENT BEHAVIOUR
IN THE
PUBLIC WORSHIP of GOD;
More particularly in the Use of the
COMMON PRAYER
Appointed by the
CHURCH of ENGLAND.

ECCLES. V. 1.

Keep thy Foot when thou goest to the House of God: and be more ready to bear, than to give the Sacrifice of Fools; for they consider not that they do Evil.

1 COR. xiv. 15.

I will pray with the Spirit, and I will pray with the Understanding also.

The THIRTIETH EDITION,
CORRECTED and ENLARGED.

L O N D O N:

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M DCC LXXIII.

 This Tract may be had to bind with *Common Prayer Books* of different Sizes.



DI RE CT IO NS FO R A DEVOUT and DECENT BEHAVIOUR IN THE PUBLIC WORSHIP of GOD.

IT is grievous to consider how many Christians there are (if such as they deserve the Name of Christians) who come not to Church at all, or very seldom, to pay that public Duty and Worship to God, which our Religion calls for, and the Laws of our Country enjoin. And even of those who do come, we find too many behaving themselves in such a careless Manner, as if the worship of God were either not their Business there, or not worth minding.— Some fit all the Time of Prayers; or put themselves into such other lazy and irreverent Postures, as shew sufficiently they have no Sense of what they should be doing, nor any Awe or Reverence of the glorious Being they come to address. Others lay themselves to sleep, or trifle away their Time in thinking of their worldly Affairs. Others gaze and stare about upon the Congregation, or keep talking and whispering with their Neighbours; and this

is especially observable while the *Lessons* are reading; as if the Holy Scriptures, though given by *Inspiration of God*, were not always to be *beard, marked, learned, and inwardly digested*, that so they may answer the Ends for which they were written, and become *profitable for Doctrine, for Reproof, for Correction, for Instruction in Righteousness*; or in one word, *good to the Use of Edifying*, 1 Tim. iii. 16. With regard to such cold and careless Worshippers, we may apply to the Church what *Jacob* said of *Bethel*: *Surely the Lord is in this place, and they know it not*. They do not consider, that they are in the immediate Presence of God, and that by such a Behaviour they affront him to his Face, while they should be devoutly attending to his Word, or praying to Him.

Others there are, who do indeed shew some Inclination to mind the Prayers, and all the

rest of the Service ; but they do it with so much Ignorance, Distraction, or Confusion, as discover that they do not rightly understand the Difference between one Part of the Service and another ; or consider, that some are *Prayers*, some *Praises* and *Thanksgivings*, some public *Professions* of the Christian Faith, and some no more than *Instructions*, *Commands*, or *Exhortations* to the People. We often find them repeating after the Minister what he alone should speak, and they should only hearken to. They are also apt, when they join in the Prayers, to say them after him so loud, as must needs be troublesome, and disturb those that are near them.

Now that such well-disposed Persons may be taught how to order their Devotions better, and to worship God not only with the *Spirit*, but with the *Understanding* too, the following Directions are earnestly recommended to their Consideration and Practice.

First then, Have a conscientious regard to this Advice of *Solomon*, (to whom God gave a *wise and understanding Heart*) *Keep thy Foot when thou goest to the House of God* ; and to look to every Step you take in your Approach to it, that you come into his more *immediate Presence* with such *Contemplations*, *Meditations*, and *Reflections* in your

Mind, as will lift up your Soul unto him, under an awful and just Sense of his divine Majesty and Perfections ; and with that *humble and contrite Spirit*, which dependent Creatures and miserable Sinners ought to have. Remember, that since God is a *Spirit*, your Worship of Him must be spiritual and reasonable, sincere and pure. It must flow from a divine and heavenly Frame of Mind. But yet, as the *whole Man* consists of *Body* and *Soul* together, you must *glorify Him in both*; (1 Cor. vi. 20.) and, considering their natural Union and Sympathy, you must take such Heed to every Gesture and Posture of your Body, as that they may be such as will best express your Humility, Reverence and Earnestness, and keep up suitable Thoughts and Affections in your Soul. Particularly, you will, I believe, hence think, that a *kneeling Posture* is most proper ; being that which Nature seems to dictate in solemn Adorations and humble Confessions, without this express Call for it from the inspired Psalmist, *Psal. xcv. 6. O come, let us worship, and fall down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.* But,

Secondly, If you are thus prepared to *worship God in Spirit and in Truth*, you will then be sure to go so early to his House,

Behaviour in the Public Worship of God. §

as to be there at the very beginning of the Service: Since the same Obligation lies upon you to attend every Part of his public Worship, as to come to Church at all. For if you miss the Beginning of it, you lose the Opportunity of Confessing your Sins, and the Comfort of hearing your Pardon declared and pronounced to you thereupon. Beside that, by coming late, you disturb the Congregation to make Way for you. Take Care also not to leave the Church, without great Necessity, till after the Minister has given the *Blessing*, that concludes the whole Service; for if you go out before, you will seem to despise the *Blessing*; and if you do so, you cannot expect the *Grace* and *Peace* of God should go along with you. But,

Thirdly, Having, as soon as you can, gotten a convenient Opportunity after your Entrance into the Church, *fall down* upon your Knees in *private Prayer* to God, for the Assistance of his Spirit in those solemn Duties of Religion you come to perform. You will behave as in his Sight; you will look upon Him as observing what you *think*, as well as what you *say* and *do*: and take Care all the while you are at Church, that the *inward Dispositions* of your *Soul*, and the

outward Demeanor of your *Body*, be such as becometh not only the Holiness and Worship of his House, but his more immediate Presence.

In *Prayer*, you will fix your Thoughts wholly upon God; who alone heareth *Prayer*; you will disengage your Mind from all worldly Concerns; you will keep your Eyes from wandering, and your Lips from disturbing others in their Devotions.

In *Thanksgiving*, imprint upon your Heart, a just and lively Sense of God's Goodness and Loving-kindness to yourself and to all Men; since you will then feel how *joyful* and *pleasant* a Thing it is to be *thankful*, Psalm cxlvii. 1.

In *Hearing of God's Word*, (whether it be read or preached) be not only attentive to it, but inwardly digest it, by applying to your own Conscience its *general Admonitions*, *Reproofs*, or *Exhortations*; and by treasuring up in your Memory its *Precepts* and *Examples*, its *Promises* and *Threatenings*, for the constant and right *ordering* of your *Conversation*.

In *Singing Psalms*; let your *Understanding* and *Spirit* direct and govern the *Melody* of your *Voice*, that so your *Heart* may be no less filled with *Grace*; than your *Tongue* with *Joy**. And,

* See a Tract intitled, *The Devout Psalmist*, Price 2*½d.* printed for John RIVINGTON, in St Paul's Church-yard.

Lastly, In Receiving the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, remember always the exceeding great Love of our Master, and only Saviour in dying for us, and the innumerable Benefits which by his precious Blood-shedding He hath obtained to us. For you will then at all Times draw near to receive it with Faith, with a penitent and obedient Heart, in Love and Charity with all Mankind, and with a determined Resolution to forsake those Sins which brought Him even to the Death upon the Cross; which will likewise engage you to serve him in true Holiness and Righteousness all the Days of your Life.

But besides these general Directions for the Public Worship of God, there are others, which particularly concern a devout and proper Use of the Book of Common Prayer, appointed by the Church of England; and which will require your immediate Attention to the Nature and Order of every Part in that Service.

Now the first Thing done by the Minister, is to read some Sentences out of the Holy

The Sentences. Scriptures. Hearken diligently to these; and consider them as spoken by the Inspiration or Command of God himself at first, and now re-

peated by his Minister, to put you in mind of something which He would have you believe or do. For they are all such Sentences as not only bring our Sins against Him to our Remembrance; but also his Promises of Pardon and Forgivenes, if we do repent: that so we may worship him with that Reverence and godly Fear, which becomes those who are sensible of their own Sinfulness and Unworthiness to approach his divine Majesty; and likewise, with that Faith and humble Confidence which becomes those, who believe that upon our Repentance He will pardon and accept us, according to his Promises.

Then follows a solemn Exhortation. Now while this is reading (which is the Minister's Part alone, and not to be repeated after him by the Congregation) take particular Notice of every Word and Expression in it, as contrived on purpose to prepare you for the Worship of God, by possessing your Minds with a due Sense of his special Presence, and of the great End of your coming before Him at this Time; which will no doubt compose your Thoughts for that Part of the Service which follows next; I mean, an humble Confession of your Sins.

The Exhortation.

But

But here, while you are *confessing* to G O D with your Mouth, and repeating Sentence by Sentence after the Minister, be sure to do the same in your Heart; calling to Mind as many as you can of those particular Sins which you have been guilty of; either by *doing what you ought not to do*, or *not doing what you ought*; so as to be heartily sorry for them, and stedfastly to resolve against them for the Time to come; imploring his Mercy in the Pardon of them, and his Grace, that from henceforward you may entirely forsake them, and bring forth the Fruits of an unfeigned Repentance.

The Confession ended, and you continuing upon your Knees,

The Absolution. the Minister stands up, and in the Name of G O D declares and pronounces Pardon and Forgiveness to all that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.—But while the Absolution is thus pronouncing, you are to hearken to it with perfect Silence, not *reading* or *repeating* it along with the Minister, as many ignorant or unthinking People do; for it is the Minister's Duty alone to make this Declaration by Authority from G O D, and in his Name, as his Ambassador. However, every particular Per-

son there present ought humbly and thankfully to apply it to himself, so far as to be fully persuaded in his own Mind, that if his Conscience tells him, that after an unfeigned and unshaken belief in Christ, he doth really and heartily repent; he will be discharged and absolved from all the Sins he had before committed, as certainly as if G O D himself had declared it with his own Mouth, since his Minister has done it in his Name, and by his Power.

What follows is the *Lord's Prayer*, in which the whole Congregation joins: For looking upon ourselves as thus absolved from our Sins, thro' a Faith that worketh true Repentance; we, as reconciled unto God through his Son, may have such *Boldness* and *Access to the Throne of divine Grace*, as by the *Spirit of Adoption*, to cry out, *Abba, Father*, Rom. viii. 16. in the very Form he taught us to pray, saying, *Our Father which art in Heaven, &c.*

This done, we are to lift up our Hearts to God in this Petition of his Minister for his Grace, *O Lord open thou our Lips*; to which the Answer is, what it ought to be, from the People, *And our Mouth shall shew forth thy Praise*. Thus the Minister again, *O God, make speed*

The Lord's Prayer.

Preparation for praising God.

Speed to save us; the People, O Lord, make haste to help us. Then immediately standing up, we put ourselves into a Posture of giving *Praise to the One, living, and true God*; the *King of Kings, and Lord of Lords*. For which Purpose the Minister first says, *Glory be to the Father, &c.* the People, to shew their Consent, answer, *As it was in the Beginning, &c.* The Minister calling again upon the People, *Praise ye the Lord*; and the People answering, *The Lord's Name be praised*: We go on ac-

The Psalms and Hymns. cordingly to praise

Him by saying or singing the Ninety fifth *Psalm*, and then the Psalms appointed for the Day. After every one of which (to testify that it is the same divine Being, three Persons and one God, in Honour of whom these Psalms were composed, and made use of in the *Jewish Church*; and who is still praised and worshipped by them in the Christian Church) we repeat that incomparable Hymn, *Glory be to the Father, &c.* Now while you, together with the Minister, are repeating these *Psalms*, and this, or the other *Hymns*, that are used in different Places of the Service to the Honour and Glory of God; observe the Minister's Part as well as your own, and lift up your Hearts together with your Voices, in acknow-

ledging, magnifying, and praising the infinite Wisdom, and Power, and Goodness, and Glory of the most High God in all his Works, the Wonders that He has done, and still does for the Children of Men, and for yourself among the rest. And in doing this you *stand up*; not only to signify, but to forward the lifting up of your Mind at the same Time. For as on the one Hand, if our Souls be really lifted up to contemplate and praise God, our Bodies will naturally rise in that erect Posture which is natural to, and most becometh Man; so on the other Hand, the raising up of our Bodies helpstowards the raising up of our Souls too, by putting us in mind of that high and heavenly Work we are about; wherein, according to our weak Capacities, we join with Saints and Angels above in praising God now, as we hope to do hereafter, in their blessed Company for evermore.

When God's *Word* is reading, in either of the Chapters, whether of the Old or New Testament, receive it not as the *Word of Men*, but as it is in *Truth*, the *Word of God*, *which effectually worketh in you that believe*, *I Theff. ii. 13.* And therefore hearken to it with the same Attention, Reverence, and Faith, as you would have done,

The Scriptures read.

done, if you had stood by *Mount Sinai*, when God proclaimed the Law, or by our Saviour's Side, when he published the Gospel. But remember also, that you hear in order to practise; and *be ye Doers of the Word, not Hearers only, deceiving your own selves*, James i. 22. Observe in those Parts of Scripture that are read, to you, what Sins Almighty God there warns you against; what Duties he there requires you to perform; what Doctrines He there teaches you; and be sure that when you go Home, you think of them, and live accordingly.

As soon as the *First Lesson* is read, and again after the *Second*,

Hymns after the Lessons.

The Creed.

we renew our devout Praises to God in certain *Hymns* appointed for that Purpose. And then with one Heart and Voice we all repeat the *Apostles Creed*, or that of St *Athanasius*, upon the Days our Church has ordered it, to signify and declare our Assent to, and firm Belief of the whole Scriptures, but especially of the Gospel of Christ. Many ignorant People seem to take the Creed to be a Prayer, and repeat it as such; which is a very gross Mistake: It is not a Prayer, but only a solemn Acknowledgment and Profession of our Faith, or what we do believe as Christians. And by repeat-

ing it here, we do in the Face of the Congregation profess ourselves to continue in the Number of Christ's Disciples; and that as we were at first baptized, so we still believe in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God blessed for ever. And this also we do standing, to signify our Readiness to defend this Faith to the utmost of our Power, against all Opposition whatsoever. Be sure therefore, that you really believe every Article as you pronounce it, that you be not found Dissemblers and Hypocrites in the Sight of God: And when you stand up to repeat the Creed, let it be your serious Purpose to continue in that good Profession, and to stand by it, and *hold it fast without wavering*, Heb. x. 23. under all Persecutions, if you shall be called at any Time to suffer for it.

The next Thing we do is to make known our Wants, and present our Petitions unto God. But seeing that neither Minister nor People can possibly do it aright, without the Grace and Assistance of God himself; the Minister first prays for his special Presence with the People, saying, *The Lord be with you*; and they put up the same Petition for the Minister, answering him, *And with thy Spirit*. Upon which they

The Prayers or Collects.

Preparation thereto.

they all immediately adore Him, and beg for Mercy from each Person of the blessed Trinity, saying, *Lord have Mercy upon us; Christ have Mercy upon us; Lord have Mercy upon us.* And having again addressed ourselves to God in that most perfect Form which Christ himself hath taught us, the *Lord's Prayer*, the Minister and People by Turns lift

Short Ejaculations, or Petitions.

up their Hearts to God in some short and devout *Ejaculations*; striving as it were to outvie each other in prevailing with the Almighty to pour down his Blessings upon us. Then in an humble and

Joint Prayers or Collects.

solemn Manner we join together in petitioning the divine Majesty for his Grace and Favour, his Defence and Protection, his Mercy and Blessings, for ourselves, for the King, for the Royal Family, for the Church, and for all Mankind. This we ordinarily do in the *Collects* appointed for that Purpose; but upon *Wednesday*, *Friday*, and the *Lord's Day*

The Litany. Morning, we do it in the *Litany*; and in such a Litany as comprehends all and every thing that we need to desire of Almighty God, either for ourselves or others.

While these Prayers are reading, we ought devoutly to con-

tinue upon our Knees; not sitting, nor in any other slothful Posture, as too many profanely and irreverently do.

Reverence and Devotion in these Prayers.

See therefore, that as you come to Church to pray to God, you do it in that awful, lowly, and solemn Manner which becomes Creatures, when you speak to your Great and Almighty Creator. And although you ought not to repeat the Prayers aloud, to the Disturbance of other People, yet you must repeat them in your Hearts; your Minds accompanying the Minister from one Prayer to the other, and from one Part of each Prayer to the other, all along, with Affections suitable to the Matter sounding in your Ears; humbly adoring and admiring God, according to the Names, Properties, and Works which are attributed to Him at the Beginning of each Prayer; earnestly desiring the good Things which were asked of Him in the Body of it, for yourselves or others; and steadfastly believing in the Merits and Intercession of Jesus Christ for your obtaining of them, when He is named, as He is at the End of every Prayer, except that of St *Chrysostom*, because that is directed immediately to Christ himself. At the Conclusion of every Collect also, you are to testify your sincere joining in it; and your earnest Desire

Desire of a Share in the Blessings
prayed for, by a solemn *Amen*;
which signifies *So be
Amen.*

*it; or, Thus I heartily
pray God it may be.* But in the
Litany, the like Assent is sig-
nified by the *Answers* which the
People are directed to make in
their proper Places;

*Answers in
the Litany.* As, *Good Lord deli-
ver us*; that is, from

all those Sins, or other Evils,
which the Minister has just be-
fore mentioned. — *We beseech
thee to bear us, good Lord*; that
is, to grant those Blessings
which the Minister has just now
recommended to our Desires.
By these we do expressly and
more at large, make the several
Petitions recited before by the
Minister, our own Petitions and
Requests to God.

And having thus, in the Col-
leets or Litany, prayed for all
necessary Blessings for
*The general
Thankgiv-
ing.* ourselves and others,
it is but fit we should

praise Him also for
those Mercies we have already
received; and give Thanks,
not only in behalf of ourselves,
but, according to the Apostle's
Direction, for *all Mankind*;
which we do, toward the End
of the Service, in the *General
Thanksgiving*. Here, if we have
any special or particular Mercy
to bless God for upon our own
Account, let us gratefully re-
member it, and secretly in our

Hearts return our Praises for
it, when we come to that Pas-
sage, *Thy Goodness and Loving-
kindness to us and to all Men.*
But let us stir up ourselves to
the utmost Fervency that is
possible, when we praise Him
for his *inestimable Love in the
Redemption of the World by our
Lord Jesus Christ, for the Means
of Grace, and for the Hope of
Glory.* For as these are the
greatest Blessings He could be-
stow upon us, the thankful Ac-
knowledgment of them is one
of the chief Ends of our coming
together thus in Christian Af-
fembly. And let us not only
heartily pray, but sincerely re-
solve and endeavour to shew
our Sense of these, as of all
God's other Mercies, by our
holy and obedient Lives.

After this General Thanks-
giving, we have the Prayer of St
Chrysoftom; and then
the Minister alone *Concluding
Prayer.* concludes with *The
Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
&c.* In which Prayer is com-
prehended all we have desired,
or can desire, to make us com-
pletely happy both now and for
ever. And with this our com-
mon daily Service ends.

But upon Sundays and Holi-
days we proceed to *The Commu-
nion Service.* the *Communion Ser-
vice*; to that Part of
it at least which our Church
enjoins to be used on such Days,
though

though there be no actual Communion. Now in the Prayers here, the same Temper and Devotion are to govern us, as in those before put up; the same Reverence and Attention when the *Epistles* and *Gospels* are read, as when the other Scriptures (the *first* and *second* Lessons) are; the same Faith, and holy Zeal and Courage, when the *Nicene* Creed is repeated, as when the *Apostles*, or the *Athanasian* Creed is so. But what is most particular in this

*The Com-
mandments.* Service is, that the *Ten Commandments* are solemnly read by the Minister; and to express the greater Authority, as pronouncing them in the Name of God, he does it *standing*. The Congregation in the mean Time is to continue *kneeling*; not that the Commandments are a Prayer, (as some weak People fancy them to be; nor are they to be repeated after the Minister, as many ignorantly do) but because it is with a peculiar Reverence that we ought to hear this awful Declaration and Summary of God's Will, and of our Duty, in the very Words of God himself: and because that at the End of each Commandment, our Church has piously directed us to beg the Mercy of God, in pardoning what we have been guilty of against the Rule of that Com-

mandment, and his Grace to keep it better for the future, in these Words, *Lord have Mercy upon us, and incline our Hearts to keep this Law*; which being a Prayer, ought to be humbly offered upon our Knees. Be very serious therefore when the Commandments are read; and think, as the Minister goes along in every one of them, whether you have not offended God, by Thought, Word, or Deed, in something contrary to that Commandment; (for *in many Things we all offend*, as the Apostle tells us, *James iii. 2.*) And accordingly, when you join with the rest of the Congregation in that short Prayer which follows each, beg Pardon of God with a deep and true Repentance: and, whether your Conscience accuse you or not, be serious and in earnest when you beg of God to *incline your Heart to keep* that Article of his Law, and to write the Whole upon it more effectually.

This Part of the Service concludes with a *Blessing*, (to be pronounced by the Minister alone, and not to be repeated after him) which is in these Words; “The Peace of God, which passeth all Understanding, keep your Hearts and Minds in the Knowledge and Love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and

*The Blessing
at the End of
the Commu-
nion Service.*

“ and the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.” *Amen.*

After the Blessing, it may be fit to continue still for some Time upon your Knees, humbly beseeching Almighty God to

pardon what He has seen amiss in you since you came into his Presence; and graciously to hear the Prayers and to accept of the Praises, which you have now offered up to Him, through the Merits of Jesus Christ our only Mediator and Advocate.

A PRAYER at our first Entrance into the Church.

LORD, I am now in thy House; assist, I pray Thee, and accept of my Services. Enable me, and all who shall this Day meet in thy Name, to worship Thee in Spirit and in Truth.

Let thy holy Spirit help our Infirmitiess, and dispose our

Hearts to Seriousness, Attention and Devotion; and grant, that we may improve this Opportunity to the Honour of thy holy Name, and the Benefit of our Souls, through *Jesus Christ* our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER at Church, after the Service is ended.

BLESSED be thy Name, O Lord, for this Opportunity of attending Thee in thy House and Service.

Grant that I, and all that profess thy Name, may be Doers

of thy Word, and not Hearers only. Pardon our Wanderings and Imperfections; and accept both us and our Services, thro’ our only Mediator *Jesus Christ*. *Amen.*

In order to assist pious Christians in their religious Exercises of private Devotion, where other Helps may be wanting; it has been thought convenient to add the two following *Tables*. — The *first* of the *COLLECTS* in the Book of *Common Prayer*, as they may suit the general or particular Circumstances of Christians.—The *other* of the Book of *PSALMS*; which abounds with a Variety of divine Thoughts, holy Ejaculations, and religious Meditations for Prayers, Praises, and Thanksgivings.

An Alphabetical TABLE of the Weekly COLLECTS in the Book of Common Prayer, reduced under proper Heads.

A F F L I C T I O N .

PRAYERS for Deliverance from, and Support under *Afflictions*. Collects for the *third Sunday after the Epiphany*, *eighth after Trinity*, and *fifth Sunday in Lent*.

A N G E L S .

A *Prayer for the Guardianship of Angels*.
Collect for *St Michael*.

C H A R I T Y , S e e L O V E .

C H A S T I T Y .

A Table of COLLECTS.

CHASTITY.

A Prayer for Chastity. Collect for the first Sunday in Lent.

CHRIST.

A Prayer for the Imitation of CHRIST. Collects for the Sunday next before Easter, and the second Sunday after Easter.

For the Benefit of CHRIST'S Death. Collect for the Annunciation.

CHURCH.

Prayers for the Universal Church. Collects for the fifth Sunday after Epiphany, the third Sunday after Easter, St John the Evangelist, and the two first Collects for Good-Friday.

For the Unity of the Church. Collect for St Simon and Jude.

For the Peace of the Church. Collects for the fifth, fifteenth, and twenty-second Sundays after Trinity.

COMFORT.

A Prayer for spiritual Comfort. Collect for the Sunday after the Ascension.

CONTRITION.

A Prayer for Contrition. Collect for Ash-Wednesday.

COVETOUSNESS.

A Prayer against Covetousness. Collect for St Matthew's Day.

COURAGE.

A Prayer for Christian Courage. Collect for St John Baptist.

ENEMIES.

A Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies. Collect for the third Sunday in Lent.

EXAMPLE.

Prayers that we may follow the Example of CHRIST. Collects for the Sunday next before Easter, and the second Sunday after Easter.

FAITH.

Prayers for a right and firm Faith. Collects for Trinity Sunday, St Thomas, and St Mark.

For Faith, Hope, and Charity. Collect for the fourteenth Sunday after Trinity.

GRACE.

Prayers for Grace and Assistance in our Christian Course. Collects for the fourth Sunday in Advent, second in Lent, Easter Day, third Sunday after Easter, and the first, seventh, and thirteenth after Trinity.

HEAVEN.

A Prayer for heavenly Desires. Collect for Ascension Day.

For Admittance to the Enjoyment of God in Heaven. Collects for the Epiphany, the sixth Sunday after Epiphany, and the Sunday after Ascension.

HUMILITY.

A Prayer for Humility and Patience. Collect for the Sunday before Easter.

ILLUMINATION.

Prayers for Illumination, or a right Judgment in all Things. Collects for Whit-Sunday, first Sunday after Epiphany, and the ninth after Trinity.

JUDGMENTS.

Prayers for Deliverance from Judgments. Collects for Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and the fourth Sunday in Lent.

LOVE.

Prayers for the Love of God and his Laws. Collects for the fourth Sunday after Easter, and the fifth, seventh, and fourteenth after Trinity.

For Love and Charity. Collect for Quinquagesima Sunday.

MINISTERS.

A Prayer for the Fitness of Ministers. Collect for St Matthias.

That they may be diligent. Collect for St Peter's Day.

That their Labours may be successful. Collect for the third Sunday in Advent.

MORTIFICATION.

Prayers for Mortification. Collects for Circumcision and Easter Eve.

OBEDIENCE.

O B E D I E N C E,

Prayers that we may obey, and follow the Doctrine of the Apostles. Collects for the Conversion of St Paul, and St John Baptist. See *GOOD WORKS.*

P R A Y E R S.

For the Acceptance of our *Prayers.* Collect for the tenth Sunday after *Trinity.*

P R O V I D E N C E.

Prayers for Protection by God's Providence. Collects for the second, third, fourth, and twentieth Sundays after *Trinity.*

P U R I T Y.

A *Prayer for Purity of Heart.* Collect for the *Purification.*

R E G E N E R A T I O N.

A *Prayer for it.* Collect for *Christmas Day.*

R E L I G I O N.

A *Prayer that we may be truly Religious.* Collect for the seventh Sunday after *Trinity.*

S A I N T S.

Prayers for the Imitation of them. Collects for *Innocents Day, St Stephen, St Philip, St James, St John Baptist, and All Saints.*

S C R I P T U R E.

A *Prayer before reading the Scripture.* Collect for the second Sunday in *Advent.*

S I N.

Prayers for Conversion from *Sin.* Collects for the first Sunday in *Advent*, the first Sunday after *Easter*, St *Andrew*, St *James*, and St *Matthew*.

For Pardon of *Sin.* Collects for the twelfth, twenty-first, and twenty-fourth Sundays after *Trinity.*

S I N C E R I T Y.

A *Prayer for it.* Collect for the third Sunday after *Easter.*

H O L Y S P I R I T.

Prayers for the Direction of the *Holy Spirit.* Collects for the nineteenth Sunday after *Trinity*, and fifth after *Easter.*

T E M P T A T I O N S.

Prayers for Deliverance from, and Support under *Temptations.* Collects for the fourth Sunday after *Epiphany*, and the second in *Lent.*

T H O U G H T S.

A *Prayer against evil Thoughts.* Collect for the fifth Sunday after *Easter.*

U N B E L I E V E R S.

A *Prayer for Jews, Turks, Infidels, and Heretics.* The third Collect for *Good Friday.*

G O O D W O R K S.

Prayers for Fruitfulness in *Good Works* Collects for the fifth Sunday after *Easter*, and the first, ninth, eleventh, thirteenth, seventeenth, and twenty-fifth Sundays after *Trinity.*

A short Account of the Occasion and Design of the Psalms of DAVID; which may serve in the private Use of that divine Book, as an Help to find out such Psalms, as may suit the general or particular Circumstances of Christians.

MO ST of the Psalms are *Prayers*, composed when *David*, or some other prophetic Author, was exposed to great Danger or Affliction; and therefore flies to God as his only Help in Time of Need, implores his Mercy, the Pardon of Sins, or Deliverance from Dangers and Afflictions. Many are Psalms of *Thanksgiving* for Mercies received; some are designed to display the Attributes and Perfections of GOD; while others convey to us the most useful *Moral Instructions*: Lastly, some of the Psalms are *Prophetic*, and some *Historical*.

P R A Y E R S.

A I. *Prayers for Pardon of Sin.* *Psalm 6, 25, 38, 51, 130.*

A II. *Prayers composed when the Psalmist was deprived of an Opportunity of the public Exercise of Religion.* *Psalm 42, 43, 63, 84.*

P III. *Prayers wherein the Psalmist seems extremely dejected, though not totally deprived of Consolation, under his Afflictions.* *Psalm 13, 22, 69, 77, 88, 143.*

F IV. *Prayers wherein the Psalmist asketh Help of God, in Consideration of his own Integrity, and the Uprightness of his Cause.* *Psalm 7, 17, 26, 35.*

A V. *Prayers expressing the firmest Trust and Confidence in God under Afflictions.* *Psalm 3, 16, 27, 31, 54, 56, 57, 61, 62, 71, 86.*

A VI. *Prayers composed when the People of God were under Affliction or Persecution.* *Psalm 44, 60, 74, 79, 80, 83, 89, 94, 102, 123, 137.*

A VII. *The following are likewise Prayers in Time of Trouble and Affliction.* *Psalm 4, 5, 11, 28, 41, 55, 59, 64, 70, 109, 120, 140, 141, 142.*

A VIII. *Prayers of INTERCESSION,* *Psalm 20, 67, 122, 132, 144.*

P Psalms of THANKSGIVING.

I I. *Thanksgivings for Mercies vouchsafed to particular Persons.* *Psalm 9, 18, 21, 30, 34, 40, 75, 103, 108, 116, 118, 138, 144.*

II. *Thanksgivings for Mercies vouchsafed to the Israelites in general.* *Psalm 46, 48, 65, 66, 68, 76, 81, 85, 98, 105, 124, 126, 129, 135, 136, 149.*

Psalms of PRAISE and ADORATION, displaying the Attributes of God.

I. *General Acknowledgments of God's Goodness and Mercy, and particularly his Care and Protection of good Men,* *Psalm 23, 34, 36, 91, 100, 103, 107, 117, 121, 145, 146.*

II. *Psalms displaying the Power, Majesty, Glory, and other Attributes of the Divine Being.* *Psalm 8, 19, 24, 29, 33, 47, 50, 65, 66, 76, 77, 93, 95, 96, 97, 99, 104, 111, 113, 114, 115, 134, 139, 147, 148, 150.*

I N S T R U C T I V E Psalms.

I. *The different Characters of Good and Bad Men: The Happiness of the one, and the Miseries of the other, are represented in the following Psalms,* *1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 24, 25, 32, 34, 36, 37, 50, 52, 53, 58, 73, 75, 84, 91, 92, 94, 112, 119, 121, 125, 127, 128, 133.*

II. *The Excellence of God's Law.* *Psalm 19, 119.*

III. *The Vanity of human Life.* *Psalm 39, 49, 90.*

IV. *Advice to Magistrates.* *Psalm 82, 101.*

V. *The Virtue of Humility.* *Psalm 131.*

P R O P H E T I C A L Psalms.

Psalm 2, 16, 22, 40, 45, 68, 72, 87, 110, 118.

H I S T O R I C A L Psalms.

Psalm 78, 105, 106.

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